

The Bull and Dog, Coton - 19th June 2019

Chris L selected the faster 100mile option with Richard and says;

Eight of us showed up for a 9am start at the Eureka. Richard had been concerned that the distance and lack of recent riding may have put people off but he needn't have worried. Peter, Mari and Janet were due to meet us on the Greenway making eleven to do the 100mile ride. Brian L had started at 8am from Tudor Rose car park - also riding 100miles with eight riders and John F. was doing the 100km ride from the Ice Cream Farm.

The outward ride was fairly uneventful and a comment was made on our quick progress with a 15mph average speed - some of us (me) would come to regret this seemingly innocuous statistic!



An all too brief banana stop just after Huxley was followed by a dash to the Marina at Nantwich (33miles) for a well earned coffee and cake (bacon, beans and eggs for some!); there were some interesting boats here and a great café, although the entrance leaves a lot to be desired - probably an easier access from the Marina itself!

From here we continued south to Audlem and Market Drayton where Richard (making a brief appearance back to the group) suggested we stick together as this was a curious route (and it was).



We crossed the A41 at Tern Hill (not nice) before my chain parted company with the chain wheel resulting in oily hands and a brief detachment from the group who

waited for me further down the road. At this point we were heading west through Prees - are we there yet?

About a mile from the pub we came across **John F** and his group looking suitably refreshed and who'd just left the lunch stop. We had a brief stop - **Chris** said hello to **Margaret**, no issues with her e-bike here - before we carried on to reach 63 miles. The lunch was excellent and all enjoyed it; the menu was extensive, reasonably priced, beer good - well spotted **Richard** - if only this were closer to us! (It's a similar distance to **Ellesmere** and **Whittington** so maybe?). The staff were friendly, helpful and patient - 'Pub of the Year' anyone!



Alas we had to start making tracks heading north-east to make **Holt** and another coffee/cake break at **Cleopatra's** - as always, very nice (82 miles). Here we were treated to two ladies on very unusual motorbikes, three wheels (two at front) with lighting more often seen at a fairground - must be quite a sight in the dark!

Once back on the road, I had another chain off moment followed by a softening tyre just before **Lavister**. I'd lost all but two of the group by now - **Paul M** stayed with me as I pumped up which held to **Saltney Ferry** as **Chris** and **Paul** drafted me along. More air got me back - **Peter** and **Mari** had left their car here and **Richard** left us to get back to **Chester**. **Chris** and **Janet** carried on along the river leaving two **Paul Ms**, two **Grahams** and me to go up **Woodbank** - all others having departed. We arrived at **Two Mills** at 6.30ish.

I certainly suffered by not having been out much for three weeks but I'm raring to go now. Thanks **Richard**, **John** and **Brian** for leading various groups - we'll be back there.

From Chris S...

I have managed to produce a Strava "Flyby" recording of the ride which available via this link. It shows Roy S first starting from the Tudor Rose at 8 with Brian L's group. Soon after that I am heading the opposite way on route to the Start of Richard's 100ml at 9:00. Then at 9:30 Rich Coffee and Mike M pop up near Tattenhall for John's 100km ride. Other people also feature although it's hard to make out most individuals. I have recorded it at 120X speed.

Click [here](#) for my Strava "Flyby" recording.

From Glennys...

I was second to arrive at the **ICF** for the 100km ride to find route leader **John F** already setting up his bike. He thought maybe about four people would turn up for the ride so he was surprised to find numbers eventually swelled to a group of twelve - including two e-bikers - by the start time at 9.30am. We had two stops, at the **Hanmer Arms** on the way out,



and at the **Cotton Arms, Wrenbury** on the way back to the ICF (thank you **John**).

The routes, both out and back were varied and interesting, the pub lived up to **Richard's** recommendation and the weather enabled layers to be taken off

from time to time. **Brian's** 100milers were just leaving the pub when we arrived and after we left the pub we came across **Richard's** 100milers. The three groups' staggered lunch was perfect timing which must have made it very convenient for the pub.



The 100km group was a fun group, banter being sometimes at my expense for being 'electrified' rather than 'electrifying'

Brian L's 100 milers leaving the Bull and Dog



Finally, in the **Ice Cream Farm** car park at the end of the ride there was a lot of interest in my folding **Thule bike carrier** and bike - perhaps a recognition that many of us may feel the need to buy one eventually.

Thank you **John** - it was one of the most enjoyable rides I've had.